

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

June 21, 1996

"Farewell" Reception For Carolyn Blackmon

ALL FIELD MUSEUM STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS INVITED

*Wednesday, June 26: 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
In the Rice Wildlife Research Station*

All Field Museum staff and volunteers are cordially invited to attend a reception for Carolyn Blackmon to thank her for her contributions to the Museum and wish her well on her new adventures.

Carolyn recently celebrated her 25th anniversary at the Museum. So for all of us, Carolyn has been an important part of our Field Museum experience. She has led the Museum to a position in the forefront of Museum Education nationwide and around the world. Visitor programs, outreach, school programs, overnights! - our programs, under Carolyn's leadership, are recognized as innovative and pacesetting.

Please come and join in this tribute to Carolyn.

Laura Gates, Vice President for Museum Affairs

"CONNECTING: The Campaign for the Field Museum" is our chance to show the world that we stand behind the Museum in its efforts to become the best of its kind. Every staff member should have received a letter of explanation about the campaign and suggestions about how to show support for the institution. If you have not received a letter or have misplaced it, contact one of the Campaign volunteers listed on the next page for more materials. If you have completed a giving form you may return it by mail or bring it to a Campaign volunteer. We, the staff organizers of the Staff Campaign, are looking for 100% participation, since, as **John Flynn** put it, "We are actually giving to ourselves".

Go Ask Alice...She Knows! →→→→→→→→

Call or come see us!

854 Beth Adams	Education
881 Paul Baker	Development
377 Ray Bondoc	Visitor Services
832 Ben Bronson	Anthropology
627 Lori Breslauer	Academic Affairs
361 Dan Brinkmeier	Education
366 Lucy Bukowski	Finance
217 Jaci Carter	CCUC
681 Mary Chiz	Exhibits
250 John Engel	Botany
372 Leatrice Evans	Security
291 John Flynn	Geology
283 Ken Grabowski	Library
540 Joe Halik	Accounting
240 Martina Hough	Exhibits
289 Sandra Johnson	Personnel
420 Nadine Kendra	Museum Affairs
442 Janice Klein	Anthropology
882 Richard Koontz	Administration
421 Chris Mailander	Exhibits
360 Anita Morgan	Education
228 Ernst Pierre-Toussaint	Maintenance
386 Anita Purnell	Visitor Services
272 Mary Anne Rogers	Zoology
631 Alaka Wali	CCUC
542 Lisa Wodis	Finance
338 Elaine Zeiger	Geology
533 Frances Muraski-Stotz	Exhibits



"Your generous donation," said the Dodo, "will help us in our quest to find a cure for extinction."

Thanks!

Carolyn Blackmon - Staff & Volunteer Campaign Chair

PAYROLL REMINDER

Due to the holiday (Independence Day) on Thursday, July 4, ***all timesheets must be submitted to the Payroll Office by noon on Thursday, June 27.***

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions - in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INTERN RECEIVES RESEARCH AWARD

Deborah Arugete, University of Chicago undergraduate and NSF intern with **Greg Mueller** in Botany, was awarded a Richter Research Grant from the University of Chicago. She is investigating heavy metal accumulation in mushrooms to see if these data can be used to monitor air quality. There are two parts to her project: 1) determining heavy metal content in mushrooms collected over a pollution gradient, and 2) looking at heavy metal concentrations over time by comparing specimens collected in the early 1900s with those recently collected. This project is a collaboration between Greg's lab and Joe Altdstadt, a chemist at Argonne National Laboratory.

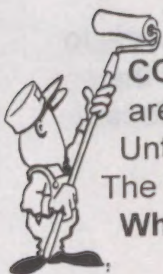
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES VISITORS



The Division of Amphibians and Reptiles recently welcomed Nestor G. Basso of the Museo de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina. Basso is a Scientist Researcher of the National Research Council of Argentina and Professor of Herpetology at the University of La Plata. His year-long visit is made possible by a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Research Council of Argentina and he will study the relationships and biogeography of Patagonian leptodactylid frogs. Basso's wife, Claudia Di Letto, also a biologist, will be joining him here later this month. Basso has worked on the ecology of frogs of Buenos Aires Province, in Argentina, and since 1990, he has been studying the anatomy and phylogenetic relationships of fossil and extant frogs from Patagonia.

RESETAR DELIVERS ON INDIANA

Collections Manager **Alan Resetar** (Zoology, Amphibians and Reptiles) recently gave two presentations. On April 13, he presented a paper on the ecology and distribution of the herpetofauna of the Indiana Dunes at a symposium in honor of the lifelong scientific contributions of herpetologist, Sherman Minton Jr. and the publication of his second book on the amphibians and reptiles of Indiana. On May 31, Alan presented a program on the amphibians and reptiles of northwest Indiana entitled "Night of the Reptiles" as part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Friday evening lecture series. Several attendees at both presentations used the opportunity to catch up on badly needed sleep and thanked Alan for lulling them into unconsciousness.



CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS: The FP&O offices of **John Mazza** and **Andy Pavasars** are now in their permanent location on the ground floor next to the Fishes diorama. Until they get a drop box for work orders, just leave them in their box in the Mailroom. The new Safety/Public Services area should be ready for the office move of **Diane White** and **Paula Brandabur** at the end of June or the first week in July.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

NATIONAL MALACOLOGY MEETING AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

Preparations for the 62nd Annual Meeting of the American Malacological Union (AMU), hosted at The Field Museum from June 29 to July 3, are in full gear. AMU President **Rüdiger Bieler** (Zoology) is this year's meeting organizer and looks forward to the visit of many molluscan workers from the U.S. and numerous other countries. Members of the society's council will arrive on the 28th, but most of the approximately 150 participants will first come to the Museum on Saturday, June 29. The formal program will begin with a Symposium organized by well-known U.C.-Davis paleontologist Geraat Vermeij, entitled "ShellPower -- Molluscan shells as Sources of Phylogenetic, Ecological and Anatomical Information." A noon time lecture by Vermeij, "What Shells Tell Us, and Why We Should Care," is open to the public (Sunday, June 30, 12:10-12:50 p.m.). Monday's program (July 1) includes a land and freshwater mollusk field trip, cosponsored by the Illinois Natural History Survey, as well as an open house in the mollusk collection and a special exhibit in the library. Monday afternoon will have a formal poster presentation in the wings of Simpson Theater. Tuesday and Wednesday (July 2-3) will continue formal lecture sessions with a symposium on Freshwater Mollusks, and a symposium and workshop on Collection Management (co-organized by Zoology's **John Slapcinsky**), with focus on chemical and physical processes affecting the preparation and storage of molluscan collections, and the management of collection data.

In addition, there will be several sessions of contributed papers on other mollusk-related topics. Entertainment and social events are provided with an AMU-traditional President's Reception on the 29th in the Rice Wildlife Station, an Architecture Cruise on the Chicago River on the 30th, a reception sponsored by the Chicago Shell Club on the 1st, and a banquet with after-dinner Jazz & Blues on the 2nd. The meeting will end before the City fireworks on the 3rd. Lynn Funkhouser, Chicago's well-known underwater photographer, will present a multi-projector slide show on her Philippine work, before the banquet on the 2nd.

Much of this preliminary information has been available on the Internet, as part of a "Mollusca" server and Web Page. This has recently been linked to Field Museum's own web page (follow the "Science" link to the AMU meeting).

All Field Museum staff are invited to the Vermeij and Funkhouser talks (more information will be provided closer to the meeting date), and you are most welcome to listen in on any of the other lectures, space permitting. For additional details of the program, for formal registration, and for information on the "social" activities, please contact **Margaret Baker** (Zoology, x 430).

STATE SUPPORTS MASTER PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Environmental Literacy for Illinois 2000 (E. L. for Il. 2000) is the name given to the strategic plan for environmental education in Illinois over the next five years. The actual formulation of E. L. for Il. began in earnest in late 1994 and model legislation, which has been enacted in several states, served as a template for its design.

During the last two years, committees have met to design a plan that can bring effective, meaningful environmental education to all students and citizens in Illinois. Every aspect of the plan was deliberated extensively to ensure that the plan embraced the full definition and implications of environmental literacy. Over 2000 copies of the plan went out for review and input was received from all over the state. In April, several state agency directors including Joseph Spagnolo of Education, Brent Manning of Natural Resources and Mary Gade of EPA signed letters of recommendation and Governor Edgar's office has now provided its support.

So now it's time to implement ! **Carol Fialkowski**, Environmental Educator in Residence in the Office of Environmental and Conservation Programs, has chaired the steering committee and provided the vision for the plan since its inception. She will now be working with the Illinois Conservation Education Advisory Board and the State Board of Education to prioritize projects for implementation. To learn more about E. L. for Il. and receive a copy of the plan, call Carol (x629).



FOSSIL PREP LAB OPENS IN STANLEY FIELD HALL

Last month the Education, Geology and Exhibits Departments combined forces to install a working fossil prep lab in a booth in the north-east corner of Stanley Field Hall. Specially-trained Geology volunteers will work on fossil dinosaur bones discovered last summer in Madagascar. Education volunteers will also be on hand to explain the activity to the public. The booth will be active through Labor Day.

Our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this exhibit a reality:

Greg Buckley, John Cannon, George Chavez, Mary Chiz, Gene Dillenburg, John Flynn, Peter Laraba, Ray Leo, Karen Olenski, David Quednau, Bill Simpson, Robert Weiglein.

THE VOLUNTEER SPECTATOR



Please welcome the teen volunteers for *Spiders!*. They will begin working in the exhibit on June 22, teaching Museum visitors about spider biology through the use of hands-on activities:

Danielle Adamczyk, Lemont High School
Lorena Aguayo, Morton East High School
Beth Blomquist, Southeast Missouri State
University

Colleen Brennan, Reavis High School
Noah Byrd, Lindblom Technical High School
Meghan Christopher, St. Ignatius High
School

Jeff Cihlar, Oak Park River Forest High
School

Matt Conrad, Archbishop Quigley High
School

Jonathan Curbis, Curie High School
Anne Edison-Swift, Main South High School

George Endrulat, Reavis High School
Ania Figueroa, Niles West High School
Brooke Fillippo, Main South High School
Mark Garcia, Archbishop Quigley High
School

David Gates, Riverside-Brookfield High
School

Barbara Getzoff, Maine East High School
Aaron Gidding, Anshe Emet Elementary
Gregory Gurola, Archbishop Quigley High
School

Hanley Hallen, Thorton Township High
School

Alina Kelly, Argo Community High School
Andy Kizlauskas, Nazareth Academy High
School

Stacey Kocian, Warren Township High
School

Jenny Liang, Hubbard High School
Ho-chen Liu, Maine South High School
Necker Liu, Maine South High School
Celina Maldonado, St. Josephina High
School

Ray Metzger, Oak Lawn Community High
School

Sharlita McClay, Richards Vocational High
School

Genevieve McCloskey, Lincoln Park High
School

Alison Orendach, Hinsdale South High
School

Amanda Payne, Lincoln Park High School
David Perkins, Crane Technical High School
Nora Schuette, St. Scholastica High School
Robin Szelely, Reavis High School
Alex Tanz, Anshe Emet Elementary
Ulysses Ward, Lincoln Park High School
Laura Wozniak, Queen of Peace High
School

What does the teen profile look like? It can be summed up this way: several are active in sports and play basketball, golf, volleyball, and cross-country running; some are artists, poets, writers, editors, actors and musicians; three are chess players and one a magician; many are bilingually skilled, and speak Spanish, French, Italian, Polish, Cantonese, Taiwanese, Mandarin and Latin; others are carpenters, builders of model cars and airplanes, farmers and activists in environmental projects. *All* are interested in spider biology and working with the Museum visitors.

Oops! In the June 7 issue of *Natural News*, I inadvertently left **John Cannon's** name off the list of people who worked on the latest Searle Lounge exhibit. John helped on the graphics. Thanks, and apologies, to John. --**Gene Dillenburg**